APRS Viewpoint+

Viewpoint+ is a web browser based, APRS client program, that allows for the sending and receiving of APRS messages, and the browsing of APRS position and text data. Weather data is not currently supported. Being browser based, you can log into remotely from any supported browser. If your network in on the Internet, this means literally from any where in the world. When you log into the program, you supply your callsign with a unique SSID, and your predefined password, which is issued by your Viewpoint+ host. The callsign[-SSID] becomes your active callsign, and Viewpoint+ will return message acknowledgements for any message send using this callsign. The callsign remains active until you log out or until your active outgoing messages have been acknowledged or expired.

Viewpoint+ runs on Microsoft Windows 2000, XP. Windows Vista has not been tested, nor has Windows98. You can log in from Windows, Mac OS, or Linux via a web browser.

Setup

To install the program, run the Viewpoint+SetupXXXX.exe file and follow the instructions. XXXX is the version number. Example, Viewpoint+Setup0723.exe is version 0.7.23.

Running the program the first time.

When the program first starts, it asks for you callsign and registration number. You should select a unique SSID for your callsign, on that you are not actively using anywhere else. Example: KH2Z-15. The registration number is supplied by the author of the program. Registration is required to validate the program to the APRS Internet System. You must supply both a callsign and registration number in order to continue running the program.

Initial program Settings

[USER]

After the program starts, click on the "Settings" menu. In the [USER] section, select the LatLong key by double clicking on it. Enter a Latitude and Longitude for the position where Viewpoint+ is installed. Separate Latitude and Longitude values with a forward slash.

Example:[USER]LatLong=34.0366666/-117.2041
Example:[USER]LatLong=N34 2.2/W117 12.246

[SERVERS]

The [SERVERS] section contains default settings for the three main APRS/IS servers. These can be changed to local APRS/IS servers in tier two. You can remove servers, or add more servers as desired. To add a server,

double click on any, Add the value SERVER4, for the key, and enter a valid server address for the value.

[CONFIG]

Authorization Timeout: Default is 1800 seconds (30 minutes)

AutoConnect: If set to 1, Viewpoint+ will attempt to connect to the APRS/IS on program startup.

Connection Timeout: number of seconds with no input before Viewpoint+ initiates a reconnect to the server.

Display Deg/Minutes: 1=yes, 0=no, for displaying position in Deg/Minutes

FileExtension: file suffix applied to Viewpoint+ datafiles used to reload data on program startup, and periodically to back up the program data.

FileSequence: tells Viewpoint+ which dataset to reload on program startup.

GLink: User definable URL link that appears on the Data page. Replaceable variables are #LAT#, #LONG#, #CALL#, #SYM#, #SYM1# and #SYM2#. Lat/Long are in decimal degrees. #CALL# is the callsign of the station. #SYM# contains the symbol table character and character for the icon in that table. #SYM1# and #SYM2# are the ASCII values for the symbol table and symbol ID. The default link is for Google Maps: http://maps.google.com/?f=q&hl=en&q=#LAT#+#LONG#(#CALL#)

Hits: Number of HTTP data requests

HttpPort: The TCP port used by the program, default=80, the HTTP port. You must assure that you're the port is not in use by other programs, and that your router/firewall allows TCP requests to your computer on that port.

IncludeMapButton: 1 adds Map buttons to the web page.

IP_Rejects: Number of HTTP data requests rejected by Viewpoint+

LinkButtons: 1=yes, 0=no. 1 shows buttons on the web page for links, 0 shows text links.

MessageSortedByTime: 0 means Viewpoint+ shows message packets as they were received. 1 means Viewpoint+ shows messages packets as they were most recently heard. Example, if a station repeatedly sends a message packet without receiving an ACK, a setting of 0 will move the message up the list to a point where is was first heard, setting of 1 will show the message at the bottom of the list meaning.

Packets Skipped: Number of data packets Viewpoint+ did not parse. Viewpoint+ does not parse Weather packets at this time, so this number gets incremented for each of these packets received. NOTE: Citizens Weather packets are rejected before the program parser and are not counted.

Packet Total: Number of data packets parsed by Viewpoint+

Quick Message Link: Settings this value to 1, creates a hyperlink to the first letter of a callsign that will create a message to that station. This is handy and I recommend leaving this at 1.

SaveTrk: Setting this to 1 causes Viewpoint+ to save track data (multiple position packets) for APRS stations.

ShowCallsignsInStatus: 1 causes the callsign of parsed packets to be displayed in the stations bar of Viewpoint+

StartLocationSearch: Setting this value to 1 caused Viewpoint+ to load a data file with position data for known locations. Viewpoint+ is supplied with a list of populated places in the United States. More data files can be downloaded on the Internet at:
http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/download_data.htm
Detailed files can be downloaded for the 50 states and other U.S. territories.

StatusText: The text transmitted by Viewpoint+ in the status packet

[DATALIMITS]

These values determine the amount of time, in days that Viewpoint+ retains data. A setting of -1 will cause Viewpoint+ to not delete data for that data type. As setting of 5 will cause Viewpoint+ to keep data for 5 days.

[GDB]

MapDrawDelay: number of seconds Viewpoint+ waits for a map to be captured

MapSize: Number of pixels in width and height of maps

Start MapSource: Setting this value to 1 will cause MapSource to start when Viewpoint+ starts

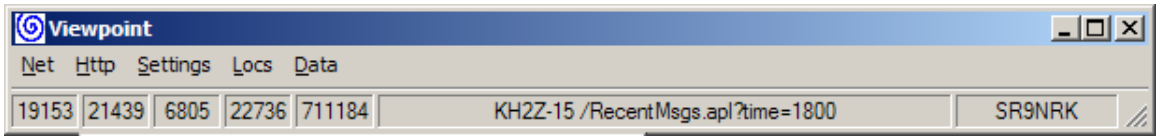
ZoomFactor: Default map zoom factor.

It is recommended that the values, Detail, Product and Zoom not be altered as that can cause Map capture and drawing to be be nonfunctional

[LOGIN]

This section contains the callsign and login in passcode for users of Viewpoint+. Each callsign must have it own login in value set. To add callsign, double click on any current key, enter the callsign for the key name, and the passcode for the key value.

MENUS



Net – Connect to APRS/IS server

Http – open HTTP port to start serving Viewpoint+ data pages

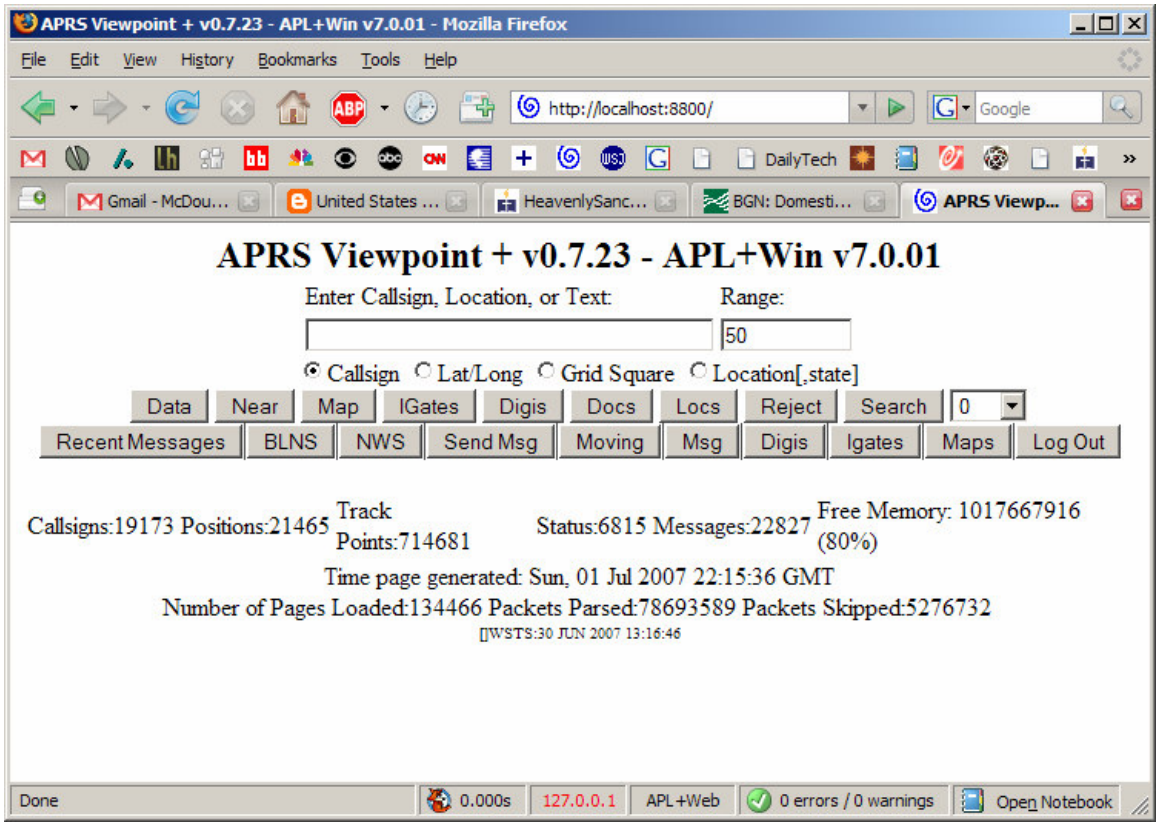
Settings – opens Settings list

Data – Allows clearing of all data

Locs – Loads the default Populated pages. Alternately, load more detailed data found at this location:
http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/download_data.htm
Put downloaded data files into the GNIS subdirectory where you installed Viewpoint+. The click the Build Location List menu selection on the Locs menu. Select the files you want to load, then click Build. Then from the Locs menu select the new data file created. Note, there will be a delay

while the file is constructed, and then the first time the program is loaded, there is a delay while the program parses the data file and creates a file that causes faster loading on subsequent loadings.

WEB BROWSER VIEW


APRS Viewpoint + v0.7.23 - APL+Win v7.0.01 - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
http://localhost:8800/
APRS Viewpoint + v0.7.23 - APL+Win v7.0.01
Enter Callsign, Location, or Text:
Range:
50
Callsign Lat/Long Grid Square Location[,state]
Data Near Map IGates Digis Docs Locs Reject Search 0
Recent Messages BLNS NWS Send Msg Moving Msg Digis Igates Maps Log Out
Callsigns:19173 Positions:21465 Track Points:714681 Status:6815 Messages:22827 Free Memory: 1017667916 (80%)
Time page generated: Sun, 01 Jul 2007 22:15:36 GMT
Number of Pages Loaded:134466 Packets Parsed:78693589 Packets Skipped:5276732
[]WSTS:30 JUN 2007 13:16:46
Done
0.000s
127.0.0.1
APL+Web
0 errors / 0 warnings
Open Notebook

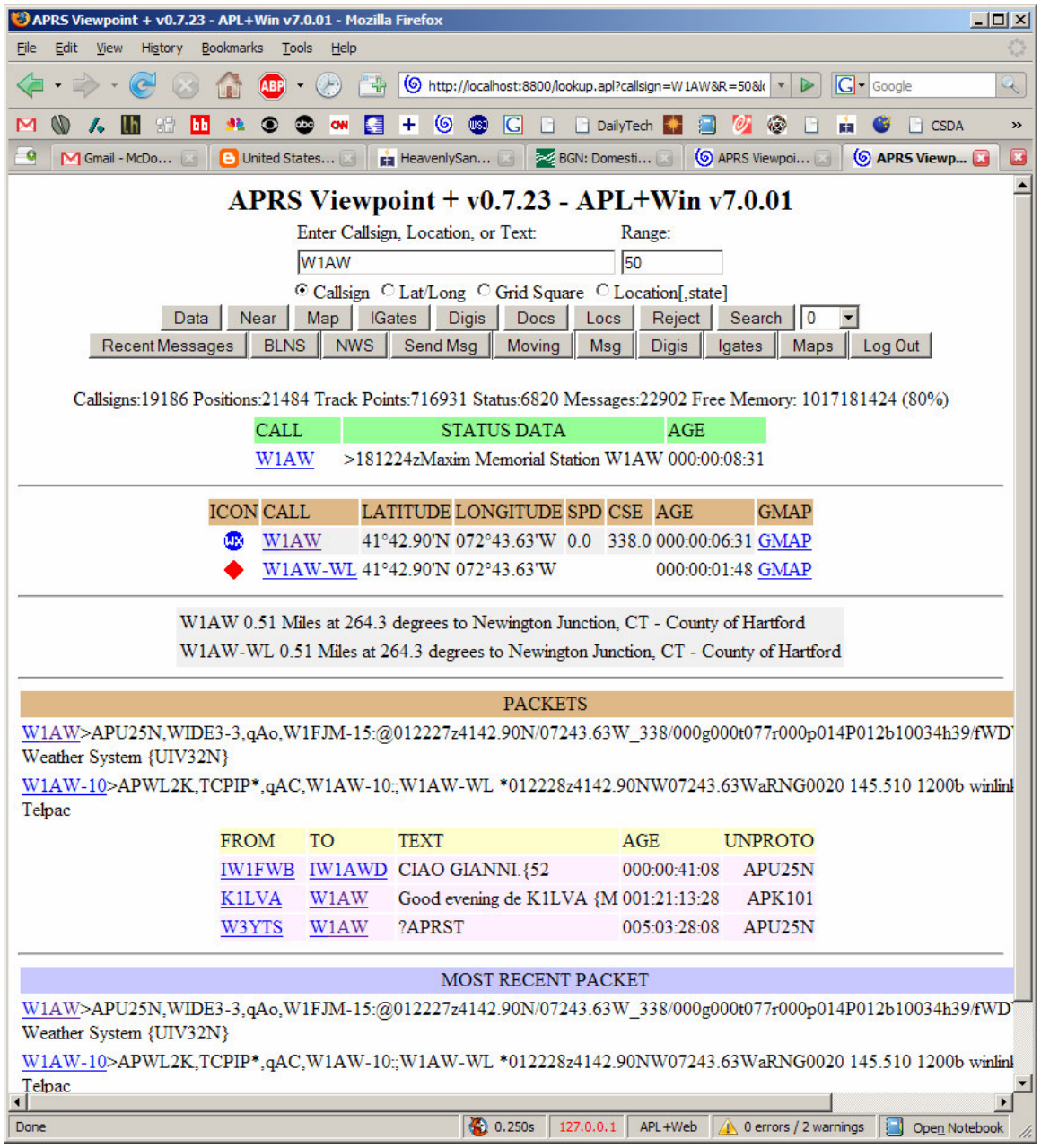
Data – show station data for entered callsign
Near – show stations near entered callsign. The entered callsign must have a valid position
Map – draw map for entered callsign
IGates – show IGates by range to entered callsign or position
Digis – show Digipeaters by range
Docs – documentation on data entry and browsing
Locs – GNIS locations by range to given position. Locs data much be loaded.
Reject – prevent parsing of a particular stations packets.
Search – search all parsed data for given term. Callsign, paths, and packet data are searched and the results returned.

Recent Messages – shows recent messages. Default is listed for the last 30 minutes. The URL can be modified for a longer or shorter time limit.
BLNS – show bulletin packets
NWS – show National Weather Service message packets.
Moving – show stations with multiple position packets.
Msg – show stations involved in message packets, both TO and FROM
Digis – show a list of all known digipeaters.
IGates – show a list of all known IGates
Maps – show of list of installed maps. NOTE: there might be an issue if only one maps dataset is loaded.

Log Out – log station out

Note Recent Messages URL can be modified by adding a filter. Add "&F=filter" to the URL. Example:
http://localhost:8800/RecentMsgs.apl?time=1800&F=A*,K*,N*,W*
The above URL will filter out messages packets based on From callsign to start with A, K, N, or W.

Note – features in this release may change in the future, or might be removed.


APRS Viewpoint + v0.7.23 - APL+Win v7.0.01 - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
http://localhost:8800/lookup.apl?callsign=W1AW&R=50&
Google
DailyTech
CSDA
Gmail - McDo...
United States...
HeavenlySan...
BGN: Domesti...
APRS Viewpoi...
APRS Viewp...
APRS Viewpoint + v0.7.23 - APL+Win v7.0.01
Enter Callsign, Location, or Text:
Range:
W1AW
50
Callsign Lat/Long Grid Square Location[,state]
Data Near Map IGates Digis Docs Locs Reject Search 0
Recent Messages BLNS NWS Send Msg Moving Msg Digis Igates Maps Log Out
Callsigns:19186 Positions:21484 Track Points:716931 Status:6820 Messages:22902 Free Memory: 1017181424 (80%)
CALL STATUS DATA AGE
W1AW >181224zMaxim Memorial Station W1AW 000:00:08:31
ICON CALL LATITUDE LONGITUDE SPD CSE AGE GMAP
W1AW 41°42.90'N 072°43.63'W 0.0 338.0 000:00:06:31 GMAP
W1AW-WL 41°42.90'N 072°43.63'W 000:00:01:48 GMAP
W1AW 0.51 Miles at 264.3 degrees to Newington Junction, CT - County of Hartford
W1AW-WL 0.51 Miles at 264.3 degrees to Newington Junction, CT - County of Hartford
PACKETS
W1AW>APU25N,WIDE3-3,qAo,W1FJM-15:@012227z4142.90N/07243.63W_338/000g000t077r000p014P012b10034h39/fWD
Weather System {UIV32N}
W1AW-10>APWL2K,TCPIP*,qAC,W1AW-10:;W1AW-WL *012228z4142.90NW07243.63WaRNG0020 145.510 1200b winlink
Telpac
FROM TO TEXT AGE UNPROTO
IW1FWB IW1AWD CIAO GIANNI.{52 000:00:41:08 APU25N
K1LVA W1AW Good evening de K1LVA {M 001:21:13:28 APK101
W3YTS W1AW ?APRST 005:03:28:08 APU25N
MOST RECENT PACKET
W1AW>APU25N,WIDE3-3,qAo,W1FJM-15:@012227z4142.90N/07243.63W_338/000g000t077r000p014P012b10034h39/fWD
Weather System {UIV32N}
W1AW-10>APWL2K,TCPIP*,qAC,W1AW-10:;W1AW-WL *012228z4142.90NW07243.63WaRNG0020 145.510 1200b winlink
Telpac
Done
0.250s
127.0.0.1
APL+Web
0 errors / 2 warnings
Open Notebook

If a station has a shaded position line, this means the station has multiple position packet, as show for W1AW above. (No – I have no idea why there are multiple positions for W1AW). Clicking the station icon will being up a list of positions. Clicking the icon for non-moving stations will open a link to QRZ to display station owner information. The GMAP link will draw a map in Google Maps.

With the Populated Places loaded, the distance and bearing to the nearest location is listed.